

§ 845.19

30 CFR Ch. VII (7-1-00 Edition)

not diligently working toward resolution of the issues.

(f) At formal review proceedings under sections 518, 521(a)(4), and 525 of the Act, no evidence as to statements made or evidence produced by one party at a conference shall be introduced as evidence by another party or to impeach a witness.

[47 FR 35640, Aug. 16, 1982, as amended at 53 FR 3675, Feb. 8, 1988; 56 FR 10063, Mar. 8, 1991]

§ 845.19 Request for hearing.

(a) The person charged with the violation may contest the proposed penalty or the fact of the violation by submitting a petition and an amount equal to the proposed penalty or, if a conference has been held, the reassessed or affirmed penalty to the Office of Hearings and Appeals (to be held in escrow as provided in paragraph (b) of this section) within 30 days from receipt of the proposed assessment or reassessment or 30 days from the date of service of the conference officer's action, whichever is later. The fact of the violation may not be contested if it has been decided in a review proceeding commenced under 30 CFR 843.16.

(b) The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall transfer all funds submitted under paragraph (a) of this section to the Office, which shall hold them in escrow pending completion of the administrative and judicial review process, at which time it shall disburse them as provided in 30 CFR 845.20.

[47 FR 35640, Aug. 16, 1982, as amended at 56 FR 10063, Mar. 8, 1991]

§ 845.20 Final assessment and payment of penalty.

(a) If the person to whom a notice of violation or cessation order is issued fails to request a hearing as provided in § 845.19, the proposed assessment shall become a final order of the Secretary and the penalty assessed shall become due and payable upon expiration of the time allowed to request a hearing.

(b) If any party requests judicial review of a final order of the Secretary, the proposed penalty shall continue to be held in escrow until completion of the review. Otherwise, subject to paragraph (c) of this section, the escrowed funds shall be transferred to the Office

in payment of the penalty, and the escrow shall end.

(c) If the final decision in the administrative and judicial review results in an order reducing or eliminating the proposed penalty assessed under this part, the Office shall within 30 days of receipt of the order refund to the person assessed all or part of the escrowed amount, with interest from the date of payment into escrow to the date of the refund at the rate of 6 percent or at the prevailing Department of the Treasury rate, whichever is greater.

(d) If the review results in an order increasing the penalty, the person to whom the notice or order was issued shall pay the difference to the Office within 15 days after the order is mailed to such person.

§ 845.21 Use of civil penalties for reclamation.

(a) To the extent authorized in the applicable annual appropriations act or other relevant statute, the Director of OSMRE may utilize money collected by the United States pursuant to the assessment of civil penalties under section 518 of the Act for reclamation of lands adversely affected by coal mining practices after August 3, 1977, until such funds are expended.

(b) The Director may allocate funds at his discretion for reclamation projects on lands within any State or on Federal lands or Indian lands based on the following priorities:

(1) Emergency projects as defined in § 870.5 of this chapter;

(2) Reclamation projects which qualify as priority 1 under section 403 of the Act;

(3) Reclamation Projects which qualify as priority 2 under section 403 of the Act; and

(4) Reclamation of Federal bond forfeiture sites.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, at his discretion, the Director may allocate funds for any other reclamation project which constitutes a danger to the environment or to the public health and safety.

[53 FR 16017, May 4, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 19342, May 4, 1989]